

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic content providing method for performing electronic content provision to a user by using an information terminal in a store, said electronic content providing method comprising the steps of:

acquiring an identification code for identifying an electronic content which is retrieved from among a plurality of electronic contents by using a user terminal linked via a network to a server in which the electronic contents are recorded; and

supporting the downloading of the retrieved electronic content to a recording medium by inputting the identification code to said information terminal, without performing, in said store, a process for retrieving a specified electronic content from the electronic contents.

2. An electronic content providing method for performing electronic content provision to a user by using an information terminal in a store, said electronic content providing method comprising the steps of:

downloading, to a portable recording medium, an identification code for identifying an electronic content which is retrieved from among a plurality of electronic contents by using a user terminal linked via a network to a

server in which the electronic contents are recorded; and  
supporting the downloading of the retrieved electronic content to the recording medium by supplying the identification code from the recording medium to said information terminal, without performing, in said store, a process for retrieving a specified electronic content from the electronic contents.

3. An electronic content providing method for performing electronic content provision to a user by using an information terminal in a store, said electronic content providing method comprising the steps of:

retrieving a content from a plurality of electronic contents by using a user terminal linked via a network to a server in which the electronic contents are recorded, and downloading an identification code for identifying the retrieved electronic content;

verifying the retrieved electronic content by inputting the downloaded identification code to said information terminal, without performing, in said store, a process for retrieving a specified electronic content from the electronic contents; and

downloading the retrieved electronic content to a recording medium loaded into said information terminal.

4. An electronic content providing method for performing electronic content provision to a user by using a store terminal in a store, said electronic content providing method comprising the steps of:

acquiring an identification code for identifying an electronic content which is retrieved from a plurality of electronic contents by using a user terminal to access via a network a server in which the electronic contents are recorded;

inputting the identification code to said store terminal, without using said store terminal to perform a process for retrieving a specified electronic content from the electronic contents; and

supporting the purchase of the electronic content corresponding to the identification code.

5. An electronic content providing method for performing electronic content provision to a user by using a store terminal which is installed in a store and which is linked via broadband link to a server in which a plurality of electronic contents are recorded, said electronic content providing method comprising the steps of:

acquiring an identification code for identifying an electronic content which is retrieved from the electronic contents by using a user terminal linked via a narrowband

